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Blyth Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

FOR THE YEAR

1953

TO : THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BLYTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, My Ladies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1953.

This year was marked by two items of great importance, (a) the flooding of the coast-line, and (b) the noticeable growth of the Council's water schemes. The first was sudden and the latter gradual, but both have far reaching effects. The effects of flooding are still felt in Dunwich village where most of the wells are useless owing to a high salt content. The effects of the Council's main water schemes are gradually increasing in that there will be a future problem with regard to the safe disposal of waste water from those houses with an abundance of piped water.

As far as the bare statistics are concerned, 1953 shows an improvement on 1952. It is a coincidence that the total number of deaths was the same for both years.

The number of infant deaths shows a considerable decrease on 1952.

The scheme for preventing well water cyanosis worked smoothly and was aided by two factors, (a) records of the large number of wells which had been checked previously provided a register for reference in the Surveyor's office, (b) more properties were within reach of a main water supply.

The infectious disease notifications revealed a large outbreak of measles during the earlier months of the year. As the incidence had been low for some time, it was only to be expected that the introduction of a few cases of measles from the large towns would have a conflagration-like effect in village communities with many previously unaffected children. When a measles outbreak occurs the main policy should be to attempt to "protect" the under-five children from their older fellows and thereby "put-off" the attack until as late an age as possible.

In the Spring, a case of poliomyelitis (a child) was notified in Badingham. The other children in the vicinity were kept under surveillance, but, unfortunately, a further case did occur in a nearby house, and this time an adult was affected. The case was a serious one; the adult affected had been doing night-and-day work of a hard physical nature, resistance must have been low, and the result was fatal.

It was hoped to be able to include in this report some statistical information as to the progress of the County Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme in this Rural District. The information is not yet to hand. However, there was every indication at

some of the Infant Welfare Centres that parents were realising the vital importance of having their children immunised against diphtheria at some time before the first birthday.

The information in this report on food premises, shops inspections, factory inspections, housing inspections and general public health inspections is compiled by the Sanitary Inspectors, to whom I am indebted.

I should like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their great courtesy and support at all times.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

J. B. KERSHAW.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	98,184.
Registrar General's Estimate of Population (Mid 1953) .	19,350.
Number of inhabited houses	6,760.
Rateable Value	£72,665.
Product of Penny Rate	£284.

VITAL STATISTICS

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	159	136	295
(Illegitimate Births).	(9)	(10)	(19)

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15·2
Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales).	15·5

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Stillbirths (Legitimate) . . .	3	5	8
(Illegitimate) . .	(-)	(-)	(-)

Rate per 1,000 live births	27·1
Rate per 1,000 population	·41
(England and Wales)	·35

MATERNAL MORTALITY : NIL

INFANTILE MORTALITY

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths of infants under one year			
(Legitimate)	4	-	4
(Illegitimate) . . .	-	-	-

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 13·5 per 1,000 live births
(England and Wales ..... 26·8)

INFANT DEATHS

Bronchopneumonia	1
Prematurity	1
Congenital abnormality	2
TOTAL	4

DEATHS (ALL AGES)

MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
143	116	259

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ..... 13·3
(England and Wales = 11·4)
Comparability factor = ·73

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS

	1951	1952	1953
Population	19,460	19,430	19,350
Birth Rate	16·2	14·5	15·2
Death Rate	14·5	13·3	13·3
Infant Mortality Rate . . .	25·3	32·0	13·5

CAUSES OF DEATHS

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	2	-	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant disease of stomach	4	2	6
Malignant disease of lungs	1	-	1
Malignant disease of breast	-	2	2
Malignant disease of uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant disease	11	10	21
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	21	22	43
Coronary heart disease	14	11	25
High blood pressure with heart disease	1	4	5
Other heart disease	47	43	90
Other circulatory disease	8	5	13
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	5	3	8
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other diseases of the respiratory system ..	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastro-enteritis	1	-	1
Kidney disease	2	1	3
Enlarged prostate	3	-	3
Congenital malformations	4	-	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	7	14
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	5	2	7
Suicide	1	-	1
	143	116	259
(1952)	(126)	(133)	(259)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following confirmed cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year :-

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	11	16	27
Whooping Cough	8	16	24
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	1	1	2
Measles	178	180	358
Acute Pneumonia	7	8	15
Erysipelas	2	1	3
Meningococeal Infection	1	-	1
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	2	2
Malaria	1	-	1

The large outbreak of measles during the first three months of the year involved most parishes of the Rural District.

TUBERCULOSIS

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on the Register at beginning of year.	33	13	18	12	76
Number of cases added during year.	8	2	5	2	17
Number of cases removed during year.	6	2	4	3	15
Number of cases on the Register at end of year	35	13	19	11	78

CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER		CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER	
New notifications	11	Recovered	5
Removals from other areas	6	Removed to other areas	5
		Died	4
		Proved to be non-tuberculous	1
	17		15

The following information is provided by the Sanitary Inspectors:-

M I L K

1. PRODUCERS.

The County Public Health Staff took sixty-six samples of milk from the herds of producers, and of these :-

(a) THREE SAMPLES were found to contain tubercle bacilli.
(b) ONE SAMPLE was found to contain brucella organisms.

Appropriate action in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, was taken in each case. (Two cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938).

2. DEALERS.

Seventeen dealers were registered for the sale of specially designated milk.

Dairies : No: of inspections made ..... 16.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No: of inspections made of Bakehouses	6
No: of inspections made of Ice Cream Premises	16
No: of inspections made of other places where food is prepared	49

FOOD PREMISES

1. The number of food premises in the area and type of business (approx.)

Grocery and General	80
Bakers	5
Butchers	13
Public Houses selling Ice Cream	4
Ice Cream only	2
Cafes	8
Fishmongers	3
Confectionery	3
Greengrocers	5
	123

2. Certain food premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act or under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Ice Cream	50
Fruit and Chicken Canning	1

3. Routine inspections were made as follows :-

Ice Cream Premises	16

Special examination of stocks or consignments of food was necessary as follows :-

Food spoiled by water from fire fighting (but mostly usable for pig or poultry food), at The Shop, Thorpeness.

Total quantity not known.
Condemned : 188 lbs. Also : 28 Boxes Shredded Wheat.
8 Small pkts. Weetabix.
4 Large Pkts. Weetabix.
(Weight not known).

Spoiled by flooding : The Stores, Dunwich.

Total quantity not known.
Condemned : 100 lb. sugar.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

Inspection on request - excluding quantities given above.

Pears	16 lbs.	14 ozs.	
Peaches	3 lbs.	12 ozs.	
Pineapple	1 lb.	- ozs.	
Evaporated Milk	17 lb.	13½ ozs.	2 pts.
Cheese	13 lb.	8 ozs.	
Tinned Meat	51 lb.	13 ozs.	
Plums	7 lb.	9 ozs.	
Apple	1 lb.	2 ozs.	
Peas	6 lb.	1½ ozs.	
Plums	4 lb.	6 ozs.	
Meat	109 lb.	- ozs.	
Marmalade	1 lb.	- ozs.	
Condensed Milk			1⅞ pts.
Tomato Juice	1 lb.	3½ ozs.	
Fat		11 ozs.	
TOTAL	235 lb.	13½ ozs.	3⅞ pts.

WATER.

No: of Samples taken :-

Public Water Supplies (Mains)	11
Private Water Supplies	30
For Nitrate Analysis	132
Under 20 p.p.m.	84
20 p.p.m. and over	48

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	4	3	2	13	129
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	10	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	1	-	2	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	-	33 1/3	50	92 1/3	12 2/5
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	5 1/4

H O U S I N G.

(i) Provision of New Housing Accommodation.

		By Local Authority		By Private Enterprise	
		Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
1.	No: of houses in respect of which tenders were approved by Ministry during 1953	86	-		
2.	No: of houses completed during the year.	58	-	16	-
	Conversions, etc. (12 - 1 = 2 to 1)			11*	-

		By Local Authority		By Private Enterprise	
		Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
3.	No: of houses in course of construction on 31.12.53.	92	-	13	-
	Conversions, etc. 2 to 1.			3	-
4.	Total No: of houses owned by Council on 31.12.53.	747	50 Prefabs 59 Huts		

* Including two derelict houses reconstructed.

(ii) Housing Act, 1949. Part II.

	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
A. Improvements.		
Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were		
(a) made during 1953	-	16
(b) approved by Ministry during 1953	-	9
B. Provision of dwellings by conversion.		
Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were		
(a) made during 1953	-	2
(b) approved by Ministry during 1953	-	3

(iii) Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year (if known)	7
Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS, 1953.

HOUSING:		
1.	Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	324
2.	Total number of houses in which sanitary defects were found	198
3.	Number of houses which are still occupied for human habitation - (either under licence or otherwise) and in respect of which demolition or clearance orders have been made	69
4.	Number of houses in respect of which informal notices have been served	80
5.	Number of houses in respect of which informal notices have been complied with	46
6.	Revisits	136
7.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served	-
8.	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit as a result of Statutory Notices served.	2
9.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made	-
10.	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of orders made	-
PUBLIC HEALTH:		
11.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied . . .	1
12.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which defects were remedied (by Owners) after service of formal notices	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Factories with Mechanical Power	83
Factories without Mechanical Power	17
T O T A L ..	100

Factories and Workshops inspected	11.
Cases in which defects were found	4.
Written Notices sent	2.
No: of cases in which defects were remedied	3.

SHOPS ACT.

No: of inspections of Shops	80.
Shops in which defects were found	17.
No: of Notices served requiring defects to be remedied	9.
No: of cases in which defects were remedied	3.

FOOD PREMISES

Byelaws made under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Section 15, are being distributed to all food premises. Notices re dogs are also being distributed, and notices re necessity for hand-washing after using toilets are being obtained.